



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SECRETARY SEATON CREATES NEW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN NORTHWEST

San Juan National Wildlife Refuge, 52 acres of rocky islands off the coast of Washington in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, was established through a public land order announced today by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton. A nine-acre tract was added to the existing Jones Island National Wildlife Refuge by the same order.

The new refuge is a natural haven for oyster catchers, glaucous-winged gulls, cormorants, puffins, guillemots, band-tailed pigeons and other migratory birds. There is an influx of northern sea birds during the winter months. The refuge includes Turn Island, Bare Island, Colville Island, Bird Rocks, and Williamson Rocks, all part of the San Juan Archipelago.

Executive orders issued July 9 and July 15, 1875, reserving certain lands on Jones and Turn Islands for lighthouse purposes were canceled by Secretary Seaton. The Coast Guard had previously declared that it had no further need for the areas.

Secretary Seaton's order withdrew the land from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws but not the mineral leasing laws, and placed the area under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau applied for the transfer and withdrawal of these lands about a year ago. At that time notice of the proposal to establish a national refuge there was widely publicized.

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